

GD-082-PHS-EMS: Drug Profile for Racemic Epinephrine

This is the Arizona Department of Health Services' recommendation for the use of this drug in the prehospital setting.

GENERIC NAME:**RACEMIC EPINEPHRINE****CLASS:** sympathomimetic**Mechanism of Action:**

Alpha-receptor stimulation: causes vasoconstriction, which results in reduction of mucosal and submucosal edema

Beta-receptor stimulation: bronchodilation, reduction in airway smooth muscle spasm

Indications (interfacility use only):

Croup

Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease, Chronic Bronchitis, Bronchiolitis, Bronchial Asthma, and other peripheral airway disease

Contraindications:

- Allergy to any of the ingredients (may contain sulfites)
- Coronary Artery Disease/Insufficiency
- Arrhythmias
- Epiglottitis
- Hypertension

Adverse Reactions:

- Tachycardia
- Dysrhythmias
- Headache
- Nausea
- Palpitations
- Angina

NOTES ON ADMINISTRATION**Incompatibilities/Drug Interactions:**

May potentiate other sympathomimetics

MAO inhibitors – may cause hypertensive crisis

Alpha-adrenergic blockers – may cause hypotension

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Adult Dosage/Pediatric Dosage:

0.5 mL (2.25%) in 2.5 to 4.5 mL normal saline via nebulizer

Routes of Administration:

Inhaled via small volume nebulizer

Onset of Action:

Within 5 minutes

Duration of Action:

1 to 3 hours

Dosage Forms/Packaging:

2.25% solutions

Special Notes:

If heart rate increases by more than 20 beats per minute from initial rate, discontinue use. Closely monitor vital signs – may produce tachycardia, other dysrhythmias, and hypertension.
Excessive use may cause bronchospasm.